

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0334

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINT, NO, UR
SUBJECT: GON INVESTIGATION OF HAAVIK SPY CASE

REF: 77 OSLO 3558

1. ON JANUARY 18 MFA SECRETARY GENERAL GEORG KRISTIANSEN BRIEFED NATO AMBASSADORS IN OSLO ON THE GON INVESTIGATION OF THE HAAVIK SPY CASE. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT NATO PERMREP VIBE WOULD MAKE THE SAME INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN BRUSSELS. HE EMPHASIZED, IN REGARD TO THE MAIN CONCLUSIONS WHICH THE GON HAD DRAWN FROM THE CASE, THAT A HIGH DEGREE OF UNCERTAINTY WAS ATTACHED TO SUCH CONCLUSIONS.

2. KRISTIANSEN STATED THAT MISS HAAVIK, WHO DIED IN PRISON ON AUGUST 5, 1977, HAD SERVED AS A SOVIET AGENT WHILE ASSIGNED TO THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY IN MOSCOW FROM 1947 TO 1956 AND SUBSEQUENTLY, WHILE SERVING IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, FROM 1958 TO HER ARREST IN 1977.

3. KRISTIANSEN SAID THAT, DURING HER MOSCOW TOUR, MISS HAAVIK MAY HAVE GIVEN THE SOVIETS DOCUMENTS SHOWING NORWEGIAN ATTITUDES, ASSESSMENTS AND POLITICAL THINKING
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REGARDING EAST-WEST RELATIONS. SHE MAY HAVE DELIVERED COPIES OF REPORTS FROM NORWEGIAN MISSIONS IN WESTERN EUROPE, CONTAINING ASSESSMENTS BY DIPLOMATS, POLITICIANS AND OTHERS ON THEN CURRENT POLITICAL TOPICS. SUCH REPORTS, IF AVAILABLE TO THE USSR, KRISTIANSEN SAID, COULD HAVE BEEN OF CONSIDERABLE HELP IN FORMULATING SOVIET POLITICAL STRATEGY AND, THEREFORE, MAY HAVE CAUSED CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE

TO THE WEST.

4. KRISTIANSEN NOTED THAT MISS HAAVIK WAS APPARENTLY NOT USED BY THE USSR FOR TWO YEARS AFTER HER RETURN FROM MOSCOW. FROM 1958 ON, HOWEVER, KRISTIANSEN SAID, THE SPY WAS IN A POSITION WHICH ALLOWED HER ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS CONCERNING NATO, NORWEGIAN/EC NEGOTIATIONS AND BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SUCH DOCUMENTS COULD HAVE INCLUDED RECORDS OF CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN NORWEGIAN AND FOREIGN POLITICAL FIGURES REGARDING SUCH MATTERS AS SVALBARD AND THE GENERAL RANGE OF NORTHERN AREA QUESTIONS.

5. THE MINISTRY'S DAMAGE ASSESSMENT HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY THOROUGH IN REGARD TO NATO MATTERS. IT APPEARS, KRISTIANSEN SAID, THAT IN THIS ARE MISS HAAVIK HAD ACCESS TO INFORMATION OF CERTAIN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE. KRISTIANSEN SAID, HOWEVER, THAT MISS HAAVIK HAD NOT BEEN IN A POSITION TO REVEAL DEFENSE SECRETS OF A SPECIFIC AND CURRENT NATURE. ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID, THE DAMAGE, IF ANY, INFLICTED ON NATO AND ITS MEMBER STATES MUST BE DEEMED TO BE OF LIMITED PROPORTIONS.

6. THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAID THAT OTHER DOCUMENTS TO WHICH MISS HAAVIK HAD ACCESS (NORWAY/EC, CONVERSATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL MATTERS INCLUDING THE NORTHERN REGIONS) CONTAINED LITTLE SENSITIVE INFORMATION. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT A CONFIDENTIAL

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STEADY FLOW OF INFORMATION FROM SUCH DOCUMENTS WOULD HAVE PROVIDED THE SOVIETS WITH A GOOD PICTURE OF NORWEGIAN AND OTHER WESTERN VIEWS OF CURRENT QUESTIONS.

7. MINISTRY OFFICIALS SAID THAT THE GON, IN ITS INVESTIGATION OF THE CASE, HAD NOT LEARNED ANYTHING NEW ABOUT SOVIET ESPIONAGE METHODS. THE HAAVIK CASE, THEY SAID, FOLLOWED A NORMAL, EVEN CLASSIC, PATTERN OF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT.

8. KRISTIANSEN SAID THAT, APART FROM THE IMMEDIATE RETALIATION BY THE USSR, THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER SOVIET ACTION WHICH CAN BE TRACED TO THE SPY CASE. WHILE THE CASE CAUSED SOME AMOUNT OF NORWEGIAN PRESS COVERAGE THAT WAS ADVERSE TO THE USSR, SOVIET CRITICISM OF THE NORWEGIAN PRESS IS NOT UNUSUAL. KRISTIANSEN SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO SOVIET-NORWEGIAN DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER SINCE THAT HELD AT THE TIME OF MISS HAAVIK'S ARREST.
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